

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9869
INFO USMISSION BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
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DEPT PASS ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB/MX

SUBJ: ORIT LABOR CONGRESS

1. EIGHTH CONGRESS OF ORIT OFFICIALLY OPENED BY GOM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON JANUARY 28 IN NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE. DELEGATES FROM TWENTY WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES PLUS DELEGATES FROM CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOR PROCEEDED TO CUERNAVACA AND DEBATED ISSUES PERTINENT TO FUTURE OF ORIT. CONGRESS LASTED THROUGH JANUARY 31 AS SCHEDULED.

2. RAFAEL CAMACHO, MEXICAN, WAS ELECTED AS NEW PRESIDENT REPLACING BLAS CHUMACERO. JULIO ECHEVERRY, PARAGUAYAN, REPLACED ARTURO JAUREGUI AS SECRETARY GENERAL AND JOSE ESTRADA, U.S., WAS ELECTED TO NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF SECRETARY-TREASURER. THESE
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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS PLUS ENTIRE SLATE OF EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED

UNANIMOUSLY IN CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.

3. SOME DISAGREEMENTS FLARED OVER CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES DEALING WITH ORIT REAL ESTATE IN EVENT OF DISSOLUTION OF ORIT. HOWEVER, THIS EMOTIONAL ISSUE WAS OPENLY DISCUSSED IN PLENARY SESSION BETWEEN MEXICAN AND CANADIAN DELEGATES AND RESOLVED IN CAUCUS.

4. THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING OF RELIEF OVER AGREEMENT REACHED ON FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION. ALL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS ESPECIALLY MAJOR COUNTRIES. UNOFFICIALLY, AFL-CIO, CCL, CTP, CTV, ULC AND CTC, CONTCOP AND PERHAPS POTENTIAL ARGENTINE UNIONS DECIDED TO SHARE MAJOR BURDEN OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

5. DELEGATES UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SUPPORT REPUBLIC OF PANAMA'S POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY OVER PANAMA CANAL. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION OF CHILEAN WORKERS ALSO RECEIVED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT. OTTO KERSTEN, SECGEN OF ICFTU SPOKE AT INAUGURAL SESSION BUT ICFTU PLAYED LOW KEY ROLE THROUGHOUT CONGRESS. SPLINTER GROUP FROM GUATEMALA WALKED OUT OF CLOSING SESSION WHEN DELEGATES DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT DUAL UNION AFFILIATION FROM GUATEMALA.

6. MEXICANS APPEAR CONTENT WITH RESULTS OF CONGRESS, HARBORING IMPRESSION THEIR REPRESENTATIVE, RAFAEL CAMACHO, WILL PLAY GREATER DIRECTIVE ROLE OF ADMINISTERING ORIT. FUTURE OF ORIT NOT SECURE BUT CONSENSUS IS THAT DELEGATES WANT TO MAINTAIN HEMISPHERIC STRUCTURE. US DELEGATION LED BY C.L. DENNIS ACTED WITH DIPLOMATIC EXPERTISE AND QUIETLY WON SUPPORT TO GIVE ORIT ANOTHER CHANCE.

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